

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 11, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing in support of the State of New Jersey's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Bergen, Burlington, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex and Warren counties. The state had previously requested for only some of these counties, but submitted an amendment on October 6th, 2011 requesting that these 12 counties receive consideration for a Major Disaster Declaration.

Tropical Storm Lee struck New Jersey shortly after Hurricane Irene, causing extensive damage to the state. Residents, local governments and businesses were just beginning the recovery process from the hurricane when Tropical Storm Lee dropped as much as five inches of rain in some areas of the state. Major flooding occurred along the Passaic River, the Pompton River and the Delaware River damaging public infrastructure, homes and local businesses. Roads and bridges across the state were impacted by the tropical storm, causing major disruptions to the state's transportation system, and many communities experienced power outages and were forced to evacuate residents.

Tropical Storm Lee only exacerbated the damage caused by Hurricane Irene and previous storms that hit the state this year. Residents, businesses and local governments are already facing tight budgets and they will need the federal government's support to recover and rebuild. These communities and our citizens deserve all the support that can be provided.

Given the severe nature of these storms, we ask that you declare a Major Disaster in response to Tropical Storm Lee for all of the counties requested by the state of New Jersey. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


FRANK R LAUTENBERG


ROBERT MENENDEZ